

## Avoiding Election Infection

### Key Scriptures

Romans. 13:1-7 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. <sup>4</sup>

For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. <sup>5</sup> Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

<sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

### Key Point:

The person beside you is more precious to God than your political view.

## TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- On a scale of 1-10 how interested are you in politics?
- What do you look forward to most—and dread most about presidential election years?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- John Adams made the statement, "*Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*" Do you think he is right? Why?
- Read through Romans 13:1-7. What kinds of responsibilities do you see being given to government? Why do you think knowing what is true, right, moral, and good is so important for those involved in Government positions?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Which describes you best and why would you say that?  
I evaluate my politics through the filter of my faith.  
I create a version of faith that supports my politics.
- Read John 17: where Jesus offers a prayer for future believers. What stands out to you?  
In verse 23, Jesus prays for unity. How would you define "unity"?  
According to Jesus's prayer, why is unity so important?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Read 1 Tim 2:1-2 together and spend some time praying for our leaders.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Choose to love people with different views enough to not burn a relational bridge over a political view.